

SECRET TELEPOUCH

DISP NO- EGFW-18220

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DATE - 9 OCTOBER 1967

INDEX - NONE

FILM - NONE

TO - CHIEF OF BASE, FRANKFURT

INFO - CHIEF OF STATION, GERMANY

FROM - CHIEF, EBR

SUBJ - CARAVEL - RECORD OF CONVERSATION

ACTION - NONE, FOR INFORMATION AND FILES

REFS - FRANKFURT 8537 /IN 42243/

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1. IDENTITIES 1-4 SPENT MOST OF THE DAY, 12 SEPTEMBER, CHATTING WITH CARAVEL ABOUT RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND AUTOMATION. THEY WERE JOINED LATE IN THE AFTERNOON BY IDENTITY 5 WHO DROPPED IN TO DISCUSS DINNER ARRANGEMENTS.

2. CARAVEL SEEMED OBSESSED WITH THE IDEA THAT IBM, IN LEAGUE WITH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICES WAS OUT TO FORCE HIM, AGAINST HIS OWN BEST JUDGMENT, TO SPEND A GOOD SHARE OF THE \$50,000,000 BUDGETED FOR THE AUTOMATION OF WEST GERMAN CRIMINAL POLICE RECORDS. FOR SEVERAL YEARS HE HAS RESISTED PRESSURE FROM IBM, NEWS MEDIA, AND POLITICIANS SUCH AS IDENTITY 6, IDENTITY 7, AND OTHERS WHO HAVE ATTACKED HIM PUBLICLY FOR CONSERVATISM IN THIS REGARD. RECENTLY HE LEARNED TO HIS CHAGRIN THAT IDENTITY 8 DID NOT WANT HIM TO ENGAGE IN PUBLIC REBUTTAL TO IDENTITY 7 BECAUSE IDENTITY 8 HAD A BIG DEAL COOKING WITH THE FORMER AND DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE UPSET. CARAVEL RECALLED THAT FOUR YEARS AGO HE DISPATCHED TWO OF HIS ASSISTANTS TO THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR TRAINING IN AUTOMATION. HE NOW HAS SEVEN OFFICIALS STUDYING THE PROBLEM, INCLUDING ONE DOCTOR OF MATHEMATICS WHOSE SALARY IS CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN CARAVEL'S. NEXT YEAR HE WILL INCREASE THE STUDY GROUP TO SIX-

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TEEN MEMBERS. THE GROUP HAS BEEN IN LIAISON WITH THE LOCAL UNIVAC REPRESENTATIVE TRYING TO EVOLVE A PROGRAM WHICH WOULD BE HELPFUL IN IDENTIFYING CRIMINALS THROUGH A COMBINATION OF PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND MODUS OPERANDI. HE FEELS THAT SLOW AND SOUND PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TO IDENTIFY THE FORM IN WHICH AUTOMATION MIGHT HELP HIS AGENCY.

3. BY CONVICTION CARAVEL IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO AUTOMATION ARGUING THE OBVIOUS THAT MACHINES CAN NEVER REPLACE THE THINKING PROCESS OF MAN, THAT IT WILL BE HARDER TO CONTROL THE RELEASE OF PRIVILEGED TRACES TO COOPERATING SERVICES, THAT RECORD SEARCHES WILL BE LESS THOROUGH, THAT AFTER CONVERTING FROM MANUAL TO MACHINE RETRIEVAL TRACE REQUESTERS WILL EXPECT A DEGREE OF PERFECTION FROM THE MACHINE WHICH IT CANNOT CONCEIVABLY ACHIEVE, ETC. HE PROTESTED THAT IF HE HAD PURCHASED AN IBM UNIT YEARS AGO WHEN FIRST APPROACHED TO DO SO THE UNIT WOULD NOW BE OUT OF DATE AND HE WOULD HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH SQUANDERING PUBLIC FUNDS. FURTHERMORE, AUTOMATION COULD LEAD TO THE ENGAGEMENT OF HIS AGENCY AS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR ALL CRIMINAL POLICE MATTERS, TO WHICH HE IS STRONGLY OPPOSED. AUTOMATION COULD ALSO LEAD TO THE CENTRALIZATION OF POLICE AUTHORITY IN HIS AGENCY WHICH MIGHT CONCEIVABLY ENDANGER POSTWAR GERMANY'S DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. HE REAFFIRMED HIS BELIEF THAT IBM IS HOODWINKING GERMANY OFFICIALS AND THE GERMAN PUBLIC BY PRACTICING SUPER-SALESMANSHIP AND MAKING FALSE CLAIMS.

4. READING BETWEEN THE LINES, WE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT CARAVEL'S EGO HAS BEEN PIQUED BY A SERIES OF PUBLIC ATTACKS. HE CERTAINLY RESENTS POLITICIANS UNFAMILIAR WITH POLICE RECORDS MANAGEMENT WHO GO OFF HALF-COCKED IN PUBLIC AS IDENTITY 6 DID LAST MAY STATING THAT THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS ABLE TO REDUCE MAJOR CRIME BY TWELVE PER CENT AFTER INTRODUCING AUTOMATION, PARTICULARLY WHEN CARAVEL LEARNED FROM FBI STATISTICS THAT THE CRIME RATE IN

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HAD JUMPED TWELVE PER CENT IN THE PAST YEAR. CARAVEL DOES NOT WANT TO FALL FOR IBM SUPER-SALESMANSHIP. HE DOESN'T WANT TO SQUANDER THE TAX PAYERS' MONEY, IS UNWILLING TO ENGAGE IN COSTLY EXPERIMENTS, AND DEFINITELY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT WHAT IS GOOD FOR BIG GERMAN BUSINESS IN AUTOMATION IS NECESSARILY GOOD FOR HIS AGENCY. HE MAY HAVE OTHER MORE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIONS TO AUTOMATION, BUT THESE ARE SOME THAT HE REVEALED TO US.

5. ALL IN ALL WE GAVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO BLOW OFF STEAM AT HIS REAL OR IMAGINARY ENEMIES AND TO SEEK ADVICE FROM IDENTITIES 2 AND 3, BOTH OF WHOM ARE WELL EXPERIENCED IN THE RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND AUTOMATION FIELDS. HE SAID THAT HE ENJOYED THE OPEN GIVE AND TAKE DISCUSSION, BUT THERE WAS NO INDICATION AT THE END OF THE DAY THAT HE HAD MOVED AWAY FROM HIS ORIGINAL PREMISE THAT HIS AGENCY DOES NOT NEED AUTOMATION.

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INFO - CHIEF OF STATION, GERMANY

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